

#INspirEDlit

December 2020

Reflecting, Thanking, and Inspiring

Another year has come and gone...and what a year it was! This year was filled with unexpected twists and turns much like some of our beloved storybooks and novels. In this #INspirEDlit edition, you will find a refresher of IDOE resources, ideas for winter break reading, and some ideas to consider for next semester.



As always, the IDOE literacy team wants to thank you for all you do each and every day for Indiana students. We know teaching is one of the hardest jobs and want to support your work in inspiring learners.

To help close out this semester, check out IDOE's Social, Emotional, and Behavior Wellness Team's [Ten Steps to Close Semester One on a High Note](#). Such great reminders for us all.

Ideas and Insight

IDOE Book Challenges

Looking for a fun way to motivate kindergarten through grade 12 students in reading? IDOE's literacy team created these templates to be utilized in the classroom, media center, or at home. These challenges include book suggestions, activities, and editable, printable charts.

[Book Challenges](#) - in English

[Book Challenges](#) - in Spanish

Reading challenges are a great way to spark friendly competition between readers if you set students up for success. A few things to consider: ensure students have access to books (in print or digital copies), ensure students have a way to record minutes read, and build trust in students to honor their classmates in being truthful during recording minutes. It does not always have to depend on the amount of time read either; you can go by number of books or pages read as well.

Looking for a few ways to get students interested in books? Consider the following:

- Introduce "First Chapter Fridays" where you read the first chapter (or page(s)) of a book to grab attention, then allow students to borrow or rent the book, so they can read the rest of the book.

Consider asking a student to share during these book previews.

- Allow students to record a book review on Flipgrid. Students can then watch each other's reviews to see if they are interested in reading the book.
- Offer a variety of books (e.g. comics, fiction, nonfiction, graphic novels, etc.) to meet all learners' interests.
- Offer a variety of ways to read (e.g. independently, partner, choral, audiobooks, etc.) to meet all learners' needs.

Did you know comic books can increase comprehension and listening to audiobooks can increase fluency?



Winter Learning Challenges for Students

IDOE's Continuous Learning Challenges Winter Edition will be available soon! Winter-themed challenges for students in grades K-12 will make this winter break a time to make memories. Please share with families to continue learning over winter break in a fun and engaging way! Check out all weekly challenges [here](#).

Looking for additional resources to share with families for winter break? IDOE has curated several of resources for families [here](#).

Educator Opportunities to Check Out!


Want Quick Professional Development and Ideas?

These #Empower2INspire blasts will have three sections: a 5 minute section to inspire, a 10 minute section to learn, and a 15 minute section where you can learn, reflect, and grow.

This #Empower2INspire bi-monthly blast will POP into your inbox if you click [here](#) to sign-up.

Empower2INspire

Empower2INspire is a bi-monthly blast of the latest research and resources that are connected to the events and developments of teaching and learning in education.



Stay Connected with IDOE

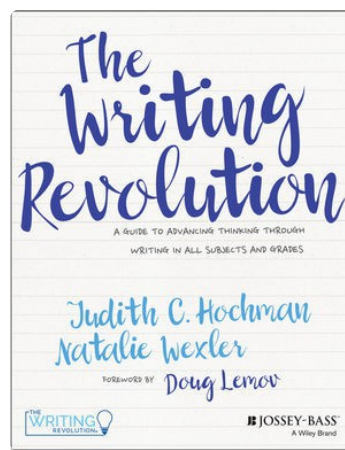
All IDOE newsletters are located in one convenient location. Please find December updates and past issues [here](#).

Join Us for The Writing Revolution Book Study

IDOE is offering a self-paced book study on The Writing Revolution (TWR). Work through the book with support from IDOE and finish with hundreds of examples to implement into your classroom!

What is TWR?

TWR is a full K-12 program that works to develop student writing skills. The skills presented are best utilized when implemented at the early grades and then continued throughout a student's educational career; however, the text is filled with strategies that can be used in your classroom as early as today.



TWR believes that sentences are the building blocks of all writing. When embedded in the content of the curriculum, writing is a powerful teaching tool. Natalie Wexler and Judith Hochman (the authors of TWR) both stress how writing is not just a skill used in English class. Writing is an excellent tool for teachers of all grades and subjects to check for comprehension and ensure that students are engaging with the material being taught in the classroom.

Want to learn more about TWR and how to sign-up?

- Click [here](#) to watch free webinars from The Writing Revolution.
- Click [here](#) to sign-up!

Dyslexia Community of Practice

Want to **connect** with other teachers and improve your knowledge on **how to teach struggling readers**? Reading specialists and those who work with struggling readers are encouraged to join the Dyslexia Community of Practice.

Hosted through Moodle, the community will:

- Help educators understand why students have a hard time reading
- Provide resources
- Host discussion forums to learn and share best practices when teaching students how to read

Educators are grouped into smaller discussion groups based on their geographic location. Please visit and sign up for a free account on [Moodle](#), then search "dyslexia" and enroll in the "Dyslexia Community of Practice". If you have problems enrolling, please email jrisch1@doe.in.gov.

Book Suggestions

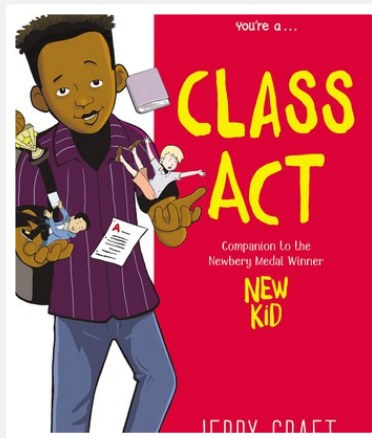
This month's book suggestions all focus on personal growth through the characters' journeys. Enjoy over winter break and introduce these to your students in January!



The Paper Kingdom

Written by Helena Ku Rhee,
illustrated by Pascal
Campion

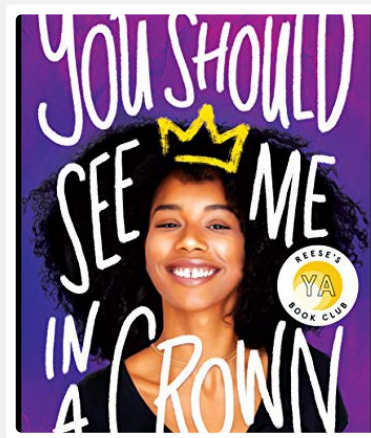
On the surface, it's an ode to night-shift workers who get the job done even when their child care breaks down. But the book's storytime appeal stems from how it shows readers that the dulllest moments can turn into an unexpected adventure. Red dragons and large golden crowns, scattered among mops and buckets, fed big imaginations.



Class Act

Written and illustrated by
Jerry Craft

A companion to the Newbery Medal winner *New Kid*, this graphic novel shines for its realistic portrayal of what it's like to be an eighth-grader of color at a mostly white school. In both weighty and lighthearted moments, the dialogue feels authentic.



You Should See Me in a Crown

by: Leah Johnson

Liz Lighty has always believed she's too black, too poor, too awkward to shine in her small, rich, prom-obsessed midwestern town. But it's okay -- Liz has a plan that will get her out of Campbell, Indiana, forever: attend the uber-elite Pennington College, play in their world-famous orchestra, and become a doctor.

Literacy Updates from IDOE

IDOE Offerings

The Literacy Team has created professional development opportunities for educators. We are offering professional development that takes into consideration current cultural and educational challenges. We have released the following recorded sessions via [IDOE's literacy professional development page](#):

- The Writing Revolution - Digital Resources and Writing with Distance Learning (K-12)
- The Five Components of Reading with Support to teach them Digitally (K-12)
- Facilitating a 90-Minute Reading Block Digitally (K-5)
- Structured Literacy/Recommended Approaches for Struggling Readers in a Digital Setting (K-12) (Coming Soon!)
- Utilizing Literature Circles to increase Student Reading Opportunities (6-12)



Partnership for Inquiry Learning

The Indiana Department of Education has partnered with a team of literacy and math educational coaches and specialists from the Partnership for Inquiry Learning to provide content to assist educators in understanding and applying select Indiana Academic Standards in grades 2-5. Each standard is accompanied by a one page description of the vertical articulation of each standard or concept, a brief overview video introducing the standard, and grade-specific videos demonstrating strategies to effectively teach each goal.

Click here to access the resources: <https://tinyurl.com/y2rs4vly>

Family Tip Sheet to Support Virtual Learning

IDOE has created a [tip sheet](#) for families to help support their student while engaged in virtual learning.



Literacy Framework

Does your school utilize a curriculum map, scope and sequence, or pacing guide? The [Literacy Framework](#) is a tool you can use to curriculum map and plan throughout the school year. Use the Literacy Framework to dive into each standard through "I can" statements, question stems, practical examples, and digital resources!

Have special requests for support? Feel free to reach out to us at any time. That's what we are here for!



Literacy and Tech: Thought of the Month!

Consider exploring a new online reading app or program like OverDrive, Oodles eBook Reader, or FB Reader.

Did you know many Indiana Public Libraries have online programs that offer free access to hundreds of books? To find your local public library, click [here](#).

Connect on Twitter!

It's been reported that over four million educators use Twitter for professional conversations. As educators, there is so much we can learn from each other. We invite you to connect with us and each other!

1. Tweet about all things LITERACY using #INspirEDlit
2. Follow the hashtag and connect with other coaches and educators
3. Follow @EducateIN for the latest updates from Indiana Department of Education
4. Follow your IDOE Literacy Team: @RoseTomishima, @KellyKWaller, & @JMRisch1

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